

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 will be pending upon entry of this Response.

Claims 19-21 have been added. Claims 19-21 are supported in the specification as originally filed, *inter alia*, at page 7, lines 15-30. No new matter is added by the newly added claims.

The Examiner has required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 of one of the following inventions:

- Group I: Claims 1-3, drawn to a method for screening for selective $\alpha 2$ -GABA_A receptor agent, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1;
- Group II: Claims 4-6, in part, and 7, drawn to a selective $\alpha 2$ -GABA_A receptor agent wherein the agent binds the benzodiazepine site, class and subclass underterminable;
- Group III: Claims 4-6, in part, and 8, drawn to a selective $\alpha 2$ -GABA_A receptor agent wherein the agent binds the neurosteroid site, class and subclass underterminable;
- Group IV: Claims 4-6, in part, and 9, drawn to a selective $\alpha 2$ -GABA_A receptor agent wherein the agent binds the barbiturate site, class and subclass underterminable;
- Group V: Claims 10, 11 and 15, in part, and 12, drawn to a method of treating an anxiety-related disorder by administering a selective $\alpha 2$ -GABA_A receptor agent which binds the benzodiazepine site, classified in class 514, subclass 2;
- Group VI: Claims 10, 11 and 15, in part, and 13, drawn to a method of treating an anxiety-related disorder by administering a selective $\alpha 2$ -GABA_A receptor agent which binds the neurosteroid site, classified in class 514, subclass 2;

Group VII: Claims 10, 11 and 15, in part, and 14, drawn to a method of treating an anxiety-related disorder by administering a selective $\alpha 2$ -GABA_A receptor agent which binds the barbiturate site, classified in class 514, subclass 2; and

Group VIII: Claims 16-18, drawn to a method of identifying a molecule that decreases the ability of a non-selective benzodiazepine to bind the $\alpha 1$ -GABA_A receptor, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1.

The Examiner contends that the inventions of the above Groups are distinct, each from the other. Moreover, if Group I or VIII is elected, the Examiner has required a species election of either $\alpha 1$ -GABA_A, $\alpha 3$ -GABA_A or $\alpha 5$ -GABA_A receptor.

In order to be fully responsive, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, claims 1-3, drawn to a method for screening for selective $\alpha 2$ -GABA_A receptor agent, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1. Applicants submit that newly added claims 19-21 also fall under Group I, and respectfully request that claims 19-21 be included in elected Group I.

With regard to the Examiner's requirement to elect either $\alpha 1$ -GABA_A, $\alpha 3$ -GABA_A or $\alpha 5$ -GABA_A receptor, Applicants elect the $\alpha 1$ -GABA_A receptor. Claims readable on the elected species is believed to be claims 1 and 19-21. No claim is believed to be generic.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the above-made amendments and remarks of the present response be entered and made of record in the file history present application. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned at (212) 790-9090 if any questions or issues remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures